

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings and versions of claims in the above-captioned patent application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented): A fryer, comprising:
 - a cooking vessel configured to contain a cooking medium, wherein the cooking vessel comprises at least one wall;
 - means for heating the cooking medium;
 - a first temperature sensor which determines a first temperature and generates a first signal indicating the first temperature, wherein the first temperature is a temperature of the cooking medium or a temperature of air within the cooking vessel;
 - a second temperature sensor which determines a second temperature of the at least one wall and generates a second signal indicating the second temperature; and
 - a controller electrically coupled to the first temperature sensor and to the second temperature sensor, wherein the controller receives the first signal, receives the second signal, and deactivates the means for heating when at least one predetermined condition is satisfied, wherein the at least one predetermined condition is at least one condition selected from the group consisting of:
 - the second temperature is greater than or equal to a particular predetermined temperature; and
 - a difference between the second temperature and the first temperature is greater than or equal to a predetermined temperature difference.

2. (Previously Presented): The fryer of claim 1, wherein the controller also deactivates the means for heating when the first temperature is less than or equal to a further predetermined temperature.
3. (Previously Presented): The fryer of claim 2, wherein the particular predetermined temperature is greater than the further predetermined temperature.
4. (Original): The fryer of claim 3, wherein the particular predetermined temperature is about 232° C.
5. (Original): The fryer of claim 1, wherein the predetermined temperature difference is about 78° C.
6. (Original): The fryer of claim 1, wherein the means for heating comprises a heater, and the heater comprises a gas burner.
7. (Original): The fryer of claim 1, wherein the means for heating comprises a heater, and the heater comprises an electric heating element.
8. (Original): The fryer of claim 7, wherein the electric heating element comprises at least one heating coil.

9. (Original): The fryer of claim 1, wherein the cooking medium comprises at least one medium selected from the group consisting of an oil, a liquid shortening, and a meltable-solid shortening.
10. (Original): The fryer of claim 1, wherein the first temperature sensor is affixed to the at least one wall, and the second temperature sensor is affixed to the at least one wall.
11. (Original): The fryer of claim 10, wherein the first temperature sensor is positioned above the second temperature sensor.
12. (Original): The fryer of claim 1, wherein the first temperature sensor is affixed to the at least one wall, and the second temperature sensor is affixed to the means for heating the cooking medium.
13. (Original): The fryer of claim 12, wherein the first temperature sensor is positioned above the second temperature sensor.
14. (Original): The fryer of claim 1, further comprising means for indicating whether the means for heating has been deactivated.
15. (Original): The fryer of claim 14, wherein the means for indicating comprises a visually perceivable device.

16. (Original): The fryer of claim 15, wherein the visually perceivable device comprises a light emitting device.

17. (Original): The fryer of claim 14, wherein the means for indicating comprises an audibly perceivable device.

18. (Original): The fryer of claim 14, wherein the means for indicating is activated when the at least one predetermined condition is satisfied a predetermined number of times within a predetermined amount of time.

19. (Original): The fryer of claim 18, wherein the predetermined number of times is about three times, and the predetermined amount of time is about ten minutes.

20. (Original): The fryer of claim 14, wherein the means for indicating is activated when an amount of time between an activation of the means for heating and a subsequent reactivation of the means for heating after a deactivation of the means for heating is greater than a predetermined amount of time.

21. (Original): The fryer of claim 20, wherein the predetermined amount of time is between about 40 seconds and about 70 seconds.

22. (Original): The fryer of claim 14, wherein the means for indicating is activated when during a predetermined number of activation and reactivation cycles, a predetermined amount of time is exceeded a predetermined number of times.

23. (Previously Presented): A method of deactivating a fryer when a level of a cooking medium in the fryer falls below a predetermined level, wherein the fryer comprises a cooking vessel configured to contain the cooking medium, and means for heating the cooking medium, wherein the cooking vessel comprises at least one wall, the method comprising the steps of:

determining a first temperature, wherein the first temperature is a temperature of the cooking medium or a temperature of air within the cooking vessel;

determining a second temperature of the at least one wall; and

deactivating the means for heating when at least one predetermined condition is satisfied, wherein the at least one predetermined condition is selected from the group consisting of:

the second temperature is greater than or equal to a particular predetermined temperature; and

a difference between the second temperature and the first temperature is greater than or equal to a predetermined temperature difference.

24. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 23, wherein the means for heating comprises a heater, and the method further comprises the step of deactivating the means for heating when the first temperature is less than or equal to a further predetermined temperature.

25. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 24, wherein the particular predetermined temperature is greater than the further predetermined temperature.
26. (Original): The method of claim 25, wherein the particular predetermined temperature is about 232° C.
27. (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein the predetermined temperature difference is about 78° C.
28. (Original): The method of claim 24, wherein the heater comprises a gas burner.
29. (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein the heater comprises an electric heating element.
30. (Original): The method of claim 29, wherein the electric heating element comprises at least one heating coil.
31. (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein the cooking medium comprises at least one medium selected from the group consisting of an oil, a liquid shortening, and a meltable-solid shortening.
32. (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein the first temperature sensor is affixed to the at least one wall, and the second temperature sensor is affixed to the at least one wall.

33. (Original): The method of claim 32, wherein the first temperature sensor is positioned above the second temperature sensor.

34. (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein the first temperature sensor is affixed to the at least one wall, and the second temperature sensor is affixed to the means for heating the cooking medium.

35. (Original): The method of claim 34, wherein the first temperature sensor is positioned above the second temperature sensor.

36. (Original): The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of indicating whether the means for heating has been deactivated.

37. (Original): The method of claim 36, wherein the step of indicating comprises the step of visually indicating whether the means for heating has been deactivated using a visually perceivable device.

38. (Original): The method of claim 37, wherein the visually perceivable device comprises a light emitting device.

39. (Original): The method of claim 36, wherein the step of indicating comprises the step of audibly indicating whether the means for heating has been deactivated using an audibly perceivable device.

40. (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein the means for heating the cooking medium is positioned within the cooking vessel.

41-53. (Canceled).